Clarke, Thomas Shields 1908

November 25 1908

Mr. Thomas Shields Clarke
50 Riverside Drive
New York

Dear Sir:-

On June 11th last you were, on my nomination, elected a member of this Society. I sent you a notice of election on the following day and as I have heard nothing from you I enclose herewith a duplicate notice thinking that the original may have gone astray and not reached you.

Hoping to have the pleasure of hearing from you soon, I am, believe me,

Very truly yours

Saunders Welch
Recording Secretary

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
1271 BROADWAY,
NEW YORK.

ORGANIZED 1858
INCORPORATED 1865

ARCHER M. HUNTINGTON, PRESIDENT.
DANIEL PARISH, JR., RICHARD HOE LAWRENCE, VICE-PRESIDENTS.
BAUMAN LOWE BELDEN, REC. SECRETARY.
HENRY RUSSELL DROWNE, COR. SECRETARY
CHARLES PRYER, TREASURER.
S. WHITNEY DUNSCOMB, JR. LIBRARIAN.
WILLIAM POILLON, CURATOR.

American Insignia, comprising, first, decorations conferred by the United States Government; and by the different states and cities, for military service; second, the insignia—or badges of members and officers—of the various Military and Hereditary Societies, form a branch of American Numismatics which has not in the past received the attention it deserves.

A collection of such insignia should be placed where it would be permanent and accessible to students of Numismatics and of American History.

Many of the societies which should be represented in such a collection have gone out of existence and their insignia is now most difficult to obtain; others have adopted new disigns, and the same difficulty confronts any effort to procure those that have been abandoned. In the future this difficulty will increase; other societies which are now active will die out, and, as time goes on, a collection of this kind will become of greater value and interest, and will be the means of preserving much numismatic history that might otherwise be lost.

In the spring of 1900, this Society undertook the formation of a collection of this kind, as distinct from its collections of other American medals, and it now has, in addition to the principal Government decorations, the insignia of a majority of the more important and many of the smaller active societies, also of a number of the societies which have ceased to exist. Within the narrow limits to which it is confined, this collection, probably, has no equal: many valuable specimens have been donated by the societies they represent.

Being an incorporated body and the most important numismatic society in America, its collections are permanent, and it is in a position to guarantee that any insignia that it may receive will not at any time go out of its possession and get into the hands of private parties. It is hoped that societies which restrict the issue of their insignia to members only, will, in view of the facts stated above, waive that rule in favor of this Society.

This Committee was appointed for the purpose of carrying on this work in a thorough and systematic manner. Its success has, so far, been most satisfactory, but there is still much to be accomplished, and it would earnestly request the co-operation of the members of the Society and of all others who are in sympathy with its efforts to preserve numismatic and historical records.

BAUMAN L. BELDEN,
GEORGE F. KUNZ,
J. SANFORD SALTUS,
Committee on American Insignia.

New York Dec 8/1908

50 RIVERSIDE DRIVE.

Mr Bauman L. Belden
Sec'y Am Numismatic Soc
New York

Dear Mr Belden,

I have been away from home for a long time and your letter was overlooked.

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the courtesy extended [redacted] and regret that I cannot accept membership in the Am. Numismatic Society as I am about to give up my home in New York and go abroad.

In fact I wish to sell my small but choice collection of Greek and Roman coins.

Perhaps you can direct me how or where to sell them — and greatly oblige

Yours faithfully Thomas Shields Clarke

December 15 1908

Mr Thomas Shields Clarke
50 Riverside Drive
New York

Dear Mr Clarke:-

Please pardon the delay in replying to your letter of the 8th inst. I have been very busy for the last week and preparing and getting out the notices of our next meeting had taken up all my spare time so that I had to let all other matters relating to the Society wait until this was out of the way.

I am very sorry ~~that~~ that you will not be able to become a member of the Society, we will hope, however, that you will return from abroad in the course of time and then be with us.

I note what you say regarding your Greek and Roman Coins, from my point of view the best disposition to make of them would be to give them to the Society, where they would be greatly appreciated.

As to selling them,- outside of a dealer it is not easy to find a purchaser for an entire collection and the dealers are all on the look out for a pretty big profit, you would probably do as well to put them in a sale, the commission is high but that can't be helped. Either Lyman H. Low 14 E. 23rd St. or Thomas L. Elder 32 E. 23rd St would probably do as well as any of the dealers in this country.

I enclose a card for our next meeting, should you find it convenient to attend we would be very glad to